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Secret Parleys Resumed With U.S., Thuy Says

PARIS (UPI) — Chief Hanoi negotiator Xuan Thuy told a group of American pacifists that he had resumed the long suspended secret peace negotiations with President Nixon's chief peace negotiator, a spokesman for the pacifist group said today.

Stan Dale of Chicago, a newsman for radio station WDAI in the Chicago area, said Xuan Thuy made the disclosure during a meeting with some of the 170 American pacifists who are visiting the Paris peace talks.

"Xuan Thuy told us he had met privately with Ambassador (David K. E.) Bruce several times," Dale told a news conference.

The pacifists are from the American Friends Service Committee, Clergy and Laymen Concerned, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

This was the first indication that secret negotiations between the United States and North Vietnam had been resumed.

Both sides broke their self-imposed rules on the so-called "private talks" more than 18 months ago.

Xuan Thuy publicly criticized Henry Cabot Lodge's handling of the talks. Shortly thereafter President Nixon disclosed the number of meetings and said they had been unproductive.

A spokesman for the American delegation would not comment about the reported resumption of secret negotiations.

According to Dale, Xuan Thuy told Bruce during a secret meeting that "If the United States announced a fixed date for the complete (U.S.) troop withdrawal, than all other questions would immediately be taken up."

Bruce's response to this proposal was not revealed. Another member of the pacifist group said the North Vietnamese were displeased over what they termed the intransigence of the U.S. delegation.